



Age-Old Objects Lesson Plan

Introduction

This exercise uses visual objects to stimulate ideas for creative writing. Old objects become metaphors for aging. They reflect our attitudes and beliefs about aging.

Objectives

Students will:

- practice verbal skills, expressing meanings attached to objects;
- practice writing skills, using objects related to old age; and examine personal attitudes about old age.

Materials

objects associated with old age

Procedures

1. Ask students to bring to class objects or pictures of objects that remind them of old age. Some examples might be an afghan, brooch, table doily, teapot, hair comb, clock, house plant, bow tie, 78 rpm records. Students and teachers may not always agree on the association of all objects with old age. This is an opportunity to explore meanings of objects, some of which may be personal, while others may reflect cohort differences.
2. Display objects in front of the classroom. Ask students to explain why their object reminds them of old age.
3. Ask students to choose one or more objects about which they can write a poem or essay. (They may choose objects other than the one they brought to class.) The writing might be from the perspective of the object, from the owner of the object, or from the young person who sees or uses the object.
4. After making changes on drafts, students make final copies with illustrations.

Extension Activities

Feature writing samples on a bulletin board or in a composite book to be given to a local senior organization.

Make the writing process intergenerational by inviting older adults from the community to join the class in the visual and writing exercise.